

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66625

DRAFTED BY:EUR:WE:REBARBOUR

APPROVED BY:EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

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P 280634Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 204815

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BONN DATED AUGUST 26, 1975 SENT SECSTATE
WASHDC INFO LONDON, PARIS, THE HAGUE, LISBON, EC BRUSSELS
NATO IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 13891

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, PO, FR, N, GW, AO, UK

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCH-
ES

REFS: A) STATE 202520, B) LISBON 4884

1. THE CHARGE MET ON AUG. 26 WITH FONOFF STATE

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SECRETARY HERMES REPRESENTING FONMIN GENSCHER TO MAKE

THE INSTRUCTED DEMARCHE. DRAWING FULLY ON REF (A), THE CHARGE DESCRIBED AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S AUG. 22 DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMES AND ALSO DISCUSSED ALL THE POINTS MADE IN THE MEETING WITH THE MELO ANTUNES GROUP (COMMENT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF (B) WE STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS MEETING).

2. THE CHARGE ASKED THE FRG TO INSTRUCT ITS AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL TO MAKE A DEMARCHE ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 OF REF (A), STRESSING THE NEED FOR THE WESTERN ALLIES TO ACT NOW AT WHAT COULD BE A DECISIVE MOMENT IN PORTUGUESE HISTORY. HERMES ASKED WHY ONLY CERTAIN EC GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN SELECTED BY THE USG. THE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT THE USG HAD CHOSEN ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT GOVERNMENTS WHOSE VIEWS MIGHT HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION. HERMES THEN INDICATED THAT THE FRG COULD NOT SPEAK ON A BI-LATERAL BASIS FOR THE EC IN LISBON, BUT RATHER A COMMON EC POSITION WOULD HAVE TO BE COORDINATED AMONG THE NINE. MOREOVER, THE EC WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT ELSE IT MIGHT WANT TO SAY IN ITS DEMARCHE.

3. HERMES THEN GAVE HIS ANALYSIS OF THE HIGHLY FLUID SITUATION IN LISBON. HE CONCLUDED THAT PRESSURE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WAS UNLIKELY TO PROVE DECISIVE.

4.. THE CHARGE REITERATED THE NEED FOR THE ALLIES TO TAKE JOINT ACTION QUICKLY OR THE MODERATE EFFORT MAY COLLAPSE. HERMES CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE AN OFFICIAL FRG RESPONSE NOW, BUT WOULD BRING THE MATTER URGENTLY TO THE ATTENTION OF FOIN GENSCHER AND THE CHANCELLOR SINCE THEIR APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE FRG UNDERTAKES SUCH A DEMARCHE. HERMES PROMISED TO ADVISE THE EMBASSY REGARDING THE FRG DECISION ON THIS MATTER.

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT AMEMBASSY ROME IS NOT INCLUDED AMONG THE ACTION ADDRESSEES OF REF (A). SINCE ITALY CURRENTLY OCCUPIES THE EC PRESIDENCY, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EMBASSY ROME BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE
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A SIMILAR DEMARCHE SO THAT ITALIAN NOSES ARE NOT OUT OF JOINT ON THE PROPOSED REITERATION OF THE EC NINE POSITION WHEN AND IF THE GERMANS, BRITISH, FRENCH OR DUTCH DECIDE TO MOVE. THE NINE HAVE AN INTERNAL TELEGRAPHIC NET WHICH COULD BE USED TO FACILITATE CLEARANCE OF A JOINT DEMARCHE, BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BETTER TACTICALLY IF THE ITALIANS WERE FIRST APPROACHED BY THE US. END COMMENT.

CASH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE204815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:WE:REBARBOUR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-1018
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975088/aaaaahcd.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 202520, 75 LISBON 4884
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCH- ES
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, EAID, PO, FR, NL, GE, AO, UK
To: ROME MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006